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Letter dated 14 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instructions of my Government, I would like to inform you of the following.

Since 2011, Turkey has been seriously exposed to the risks and threats emanating from the crisis in Syria, which is the result of the Syrian regime's violent oppression of the legitimate and democratic aspirations of the Syrian people.

In line with our open border policy, temporary protection and assistance is being provided to 260,000 Syrians in 25 shelters in Turkey. The needs of nearly 2 million Syrians and Iraqis who live outside the shelters are also being addressed. The financial burden on the Government has reached almost $6 billion, whereas the total contributions we have received bilaterally and multilaterally from the international community to date have amounted only to $393 million.

What we have witnessed in Ayn El Arab/Kobane in the past months is now occurring in Akcakale/Tel Abyad. The most recent intensification of clashes along the 911 km border we share with Syria has triggered a new influx of displaced population towards Turkey.

In the past 10 days, 15,000 Syrians from Akcakale/Tel Abyad have been permitted to enter Turkey. Also, as a result of the intensification of the clashes in the town, 4,000 Syrians, who have been amassed at the border region, are now being accepted into Turkey.

The clashes in and around Tel Abyad, which is situated right across the Akcakale border crossing, are a source of grave concern. The forceful displacement of the Arab and Turkmen populations of the northern regions of Syria is unacceptable and is bound to further deepen the crisis in Syria.

International and regional peace and security is under increasing risk owing to this worsening crisis. The international community's continuing silence on these developments is deafening, while a collective response that will address the magnitude of this threat remains lacking.

It is neither possible nor just to expect from Turkey that it face the migratory pressures, and the risks and threats emanating from Syria, alone.

In view of the above, Turkey calls on the United Nations, the Security Council and the agencies of the United Nations system to assume their responsibilities in a full manner and without further delay and to swiftly take all necessary measures.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative